

# PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy  
Community



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

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## A Note from the Leader of the Planning Community of Practice

Greetings fellow planners! I want to share something exciting with you this month. For the first time in recent times, Planning Chiefs from around the Corps gathered in Fort Worth in July. For many in attendance, this session was the first opportunity to meet their counterparts outside of their region. The major intent was to establish and build relationships within and across the Planning leadership. In addition to building relationships, this workshop was an opportunity to hear from our Planning leadership team firsthand and to discuss common issues facing the planning family and to develop a strategy to move the Planning Community of Practice forward. Our efforts in Texas will begin to help us to plan smart and build strong to effectively execute our mission of providing credible planning products that will withstand scrutiny outside of the Corps.

In this column, I would like to lay out the general framework of the discussions held during the meeting. In future columns, I will address future initiatives to address the issues we discussed and dealt with in this meeting.

The discussions at the meeting covered a wide variety of topics including the development of the members within the Planning community; implementation of new planning guidance; planning model certification; gaining a perspective from the DCG-CEO, OASA(CW) and IEPR panels; identifying ways to improve the quality of products; increasing the use of the talents and expertise resident in the Planning Centers of Expertise by PDTs in carrying out their mission; identifying ways in which the Headquarters and Division staff can assist the Districts in carrying out their missions; training in the areas of development of WRDA implementation guidance and review plans; emerging and future trends in planning; and finally, the distribution of workload across the Divisions and District offices. I will just touch a few of these issues.

In the area of the development of the level of expertise at the District, discussion among the Planning Chiefs focused on the current level of expertise residing at the District office level and the desired level of that expertise. Discussions identified the need for continued support of training opportunities and associated financial commitment to fund those activities, and the opportunities for rotational assignments to broaden the experiences of individuals at the District level. Also discussed were recruitment strategies that Districts used to draw talented individuals into the Corps.

In the area of improving the quality of planning documents, discussions ranged across a wide spectrum of issues, including providing examples of “good” reports; ensuring timely coordination of review efforts; holding webinars when

new planning guidance is released; detailing Headquarters personnel to the field and vice versa; providing vertical team assistance earlier in the planning process; and better coordination and collaboration among the various members of the report preparation and review team.

On the use of the use of the Planning Centers of Expertise in helping the Districts, ideas ranging from providing regional and national training events, making available comprehensive lists of models available for use in the various of studies the Districts are engaged in, the increasing role of the Planning Centers of Expertise in the quality assurance/quality control review of planning documents and assisting the Districts respond to and resolve comments and issues raised during the review phase, and supporting the Districts at the Civil Works Review Board phase of the planning process.

As you can see, we have lots of issues on our plate. I want to assure you that we are engaged and we will address these tough issues together. In future issues of *Planning Ahead*, I will give you updates on how we are coming. These are exciting times to be in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers! Essays,

Tab

Planning Smart and Building Strong!

Theodore A. "Tab" Brown, P.E., SES  
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## WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

This month's issue of *Planning Ahead* begins with an announcement by **Mr. Tab Brown** of the selection of the members of the Planning Associates Class of 2010.

**Mr. Bruce Carlson** provides an announcement of the Planning Community of Practice 2010 Planning Conference, scheduled for 7-10 June 2010 in Orlando, Florida.

**Ms. Susan Durden** and **Ms. Erin Wilson** announce the publication of an "Economics Primer", designed to assist economists and non-economists understand the application of economic principles and concepts in Corps planning studies.

**Ms. Durden** and **Ms. Wilson** also announce the release of an "Overview Manual" targeted to economists who wish to gain a more in-depth understanding of economic principles and concepts.

**Mr. Paul Rubinstein** of USACE Headquarters writes about the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and USACE Headquarters participation in an audit conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

**Mr. Ted Hillyer** reports on a Water Supply workshop that was held in Tulsa, OK on 2-3 June.

**Mr. Tim Fleeger** of the Omaha District and a member of the Planning Associates Class of 2009 reports on the Planning Associates visit to the Rock Island District to learn about ecosystem restoration.

Mr. Jeff Lin of the Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Lab and a member of the Planning Associates Class of 2009 reports on the Planning Associates visit to Alaska to learn about two subjects: small boat harbors and intergovernmental coordination.

Also included in this month's issue of *Planning Ahead* is a listing of employment opportunities from around the Corps, upcoming PROSPECT training courses, upcoming technical seminars and conferences, and recent publications in the field of water resources planning and engineering.

Thanks again to all the members of the Planning Community of Practice for their support and interest in the *Planning Ahead* newsletter.

Ken Lichtman, Editor  
Institute for Water Resources  
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## PLANNING CoP NEWS

### Announcement of Planning Associates Class of 2010

I am pleased to announce the selection of the following individuals as members of the Planning Associates Class of 2010: **Ms. Kelly Baerwaldt**, Rock Island District; **Ms. Lorraine Cordova**, Alaska District; **Mr. Durund Elzey**, New Orleans District; **Mr. Steven Fisher**, Kansas City District; **Ms. Charissa Kelly**, Fort Worth District; **Ms. Melissa Montag**, Sacramento District; **Mr. David Schulenberg**, Buffalo District; **Ms. Julie Watkins**, Mobile District; **Ms. Sharon Weekly**, Huntington District; and, **Mr. Raymond Wimbrough**, Jacksonville District.

I offer my sincere congratulations to each them and may their learning opportunities and exposure to the many facets of the Corps through the Planning Associates program serve them and the Corps of Engineers well in the future.

Mr. Theodore A. “Tab” Brown, P.E., SES  
Chief, Planning and Policy HQUSACE  
Leader, Planning Community of Practice

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### Announcement of Planning Community of Practice Conference 2010:

#### “PLANNING SMART, BUILDING STRONG”

By Bruce Carlson, USACE Headquarters

Save the date! The next Planning CoP Conference will be held June 7-10, 2010 in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Plaza Hotel.

The theme of the conference will be “Planning Smart, Building Strong.” The conference will be structured to emphasize how the Planning Community of Practice supports the strategic direction of the Corps, especially Campaign Plan Goal 2: Deliver enduring and essential water resource solutions through collaboration with partners and stakeholders.

Planners are encouraged to start thinking now about attending the conference, and discussing your plans with your supervisors to make sure you can attend. Watch *Planning Ahead* for more conference announcements. Watch, too, for the launch of the Conference web site in the near future.

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### It’s the Corps of Engineers. What’s Economics Got to Do With it?

Susan Durden and Erin Wilson, IWR

This question, in many forms, is often asked by local sponsors, District Engineers, project managers and others. The newly completed Economics Primer (<[http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/inside/products/pub/iwrreports/iwrreport\\_09-R-3.pdf](http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/inside/products/pub/iwrreports/iwrreport_09-R-3.pdf)>) is designed to provide the answers. The Primer is a new document in the National Economic Development Manuals series. Topics covered in the Primer include how economics is used in Corps analyses; definitions (What is the difference between a benefit-cost ratio and net benefits?) and basic economic concepts. The Primer is designed for an educated audience unfamiliar with economics. We hope it will be of help to you.

Hard copies of the Primer will be distributed by Headquarters to all District Planning elements. Please contact Erin Wilson, [Erin.l.wilson@usace.army.mil](mailto:Erin.l.wilson@usace.army.mil) with requests for additional copies of the Primer. Please send questions or comments regarding the Primer to Susan Durden at [Susan.e.durden@usace.army.mil](mailto:Susan.e.durden@usace.army.mil).

## College Economics to Corps Economics

Susan Durden and Erin Wilson, IWR

New Corps economists often say that they find it difficult to relate the concepts they learned in their academic classes to the analyses they perform at work. The Overview Manual, part of the National Economic Development Manuals series, helps to bridge these “two worlds”. It explains how key economic concepts, such as consumer surplus, economic rent, markets and prices relate to the economic analyses done for Corps projects. The audience for the Overview Manual is economists or others who wish to gain a more in-depth understanding of economic principles and analysis. The publication is available at:  
<http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/inside/products/pub/iwrreports/09-R-02.pdf>

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### Army Civil Works to Participate in Audit on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)

By Paul Rubinstein, USACE, Headquarters

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (OASA/CW) and Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (HQUSACE) are cooperating with the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) in an audit to review the implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). In a letter dated 24 June 2009, GAO informed The Honorable Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense, this investigation is being launched at the request of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the House Committee on Natural Resources. GAO noted the bicameral request will involve the work of the Corps, the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Forest Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority and other departments and agencies.

On 14 July 2009, a team of investigators met with OASA/CW and HQUSACE representatives to conduct an entrance interview for the audit. Mr. Charles R. “Chip” Smith, Assistant for Environment, Tribal and Regulatory Affairs in the OASA/CW is leading the Department of the Army team. Key specialists from HQUSACE include: Mr. Paul Rubenstein, USACE National NAGPRA Program Coordinator, Dr. Georgeanne Reynolds, HQUSACE Tribal Liaison, and Ms. Elizabeth Kimmerley, Environmental Stewardship Business Line Manager.

The Corps team will also include Dr. Michael “Sonny” Trimble, Director, Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) for Curation and the Management of Archeological Collections (CMAC) in St. Louis District. Additional specialists from MCX CMAC will likely be involved in this effort as the audit moves into data gathering phases.

In the June letter to Secretary Gates, GAO stated the preliminary objectives of the NAGPRA exercise are narrowly defined to determine how and to what extent the Corps has reported human remains and cultural items to the National Park Service and how the National Park Service has fulfilled its NAGPRA program management functions. In contrast, the July entrance interview was characterized by a wide ranging discussion of NAGPRA issues with GAO questioning on Section 3 “Inadvertent Discoveries” and concerns about the status of Corps compliance with NAGPRA Sections 5 through 7. The GAO team of investigators made clear their intention to intensively examine the Corps NAGPRA implementation program, including a visit to MCX CMAC to gather facts and figures maintained in St. Louis.

In response, the Army and HQUSACE team welcomed the GAO effort and expressed confidence that the Corps implementation of NAGPRA has unique features and levels of accomplishment that will withstand scrutiny and demonstrate leadership and excellence.



## **Water Supply Workshop Convened in Tulsa, OK, 2-3 June**

**By Ted Hillyer, Institute for Water Resources**

A water supply workshop held in Tulsa, OK on 2-3 June, was attended by 64 people representing Army General Counsel, HQUSACE, four MSC's, 12 districts, IWR, the NWD Hydropower Analysis Center as well as representatives from the Southwestern Power Administration and the states of Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas.

Following an overview of the Tulsa District and their importance to the water supply mission of the Corps of Engineers, there were 25 presentations covering such topics as:

- water supply policy, pricing, guidance, potential delegation, policy/guidance rewrite of ER 1105-2-100, data base and business line;
- processing of reallocation studies;
- the water supply module of OMBIL;
- the water supply PCX;
- water accounting;
- dam safety impacts on reallocations;
- sedimentation projections;
- case study issues faced by the Baltimore, Nashville and Little Rock Districts;
- legal issues surrounding the ACT/ACF (Lake Lanier, GA);
- relationships with our power marketing agencies and the mission of the Hydropower Analysis Center; and,
- issues surrounding the Chatfield, CO reallocation.

One major topic of discussion was on the theory and technical aspects of storage yield analysis and was covered in several different ways by several speakers. This was one of the key issues of concern to the workshop participants as there is currently no consistent approach in how different districts conduct such analyses for their storage reallocations studies.

A guest speaker from the state of Texas, Mr. Jerry Chapman of the Greater Texoma Utility Authority, presented an interesting paper on Texas water issues and a representative from Kansas, Ms. Susan Metzger of the Kansas Water Office, discussed the Kansas reservoir sustainability initiative.

The workshop proved very successful as a forum for participants to raise questions, share experiences, present their water supply management approaches and increase their knowledge of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers municipal and industrial water supply program and policies.

The presentations given at the workshop can be found on the IWR home page under "News and Events" or by going to: <<http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/inside/products/pub/pubCleanWaterSupplyWorkshopPrs.cfm>>.

Taking advantage of the assembled workshop participants, on 4 June, a session attended by a select eight of those participants representing HQUSACE, four MSC's, IWR and one district held a discussion on the "National Portfolio Assessment for Reallocations." This study was authorized by the Office of Management and Budget for inclusion in the fiscal year 2008 and 2009 budgets to develop a portfolio of projects suitable for reallocation to municipal and industrial water supply as long as the Corps of Engineers also developed alternative funding arrangements for reallocation studies. Following a presentation on the Portfolio results and the plan of study, the 4 June session developed an outline with pros and cons on alternative funding scenarios and a method to prioritize reallocations. A final draft of this document is scheduled for submittal to HQUSACE in August.

For additional information on the workshop or the National Portfolio Assessment for Reallocations study please contact Mr. Ted Hillyer (CEIWR-GI), National Water Supply Business Manager at: [Theodore.M.Hillyer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Theodore.M.Hillyer@usace.army.mil).

## FEATURED ARTICLES

### The Planning Associates Class of 2009: Ecosystem Restoration Module By Tim Fleege, Omaha District

*Following an illuminating week in Folsom, CA which focused on Flood Risk Management, the 2009 Planning Associates (PAs) traveled to Rock Island District during their 13<sup>th</sup> week of travel for the program. The Ecosystem Restoration (ER) training module was hosted by Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) on June 8-12, 2009.*

The Quad Cities - comprised of Rock Island and Moline in Illinois and Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa – are apparently the epicenter of Midwestern hospitality. In this charming area nestled on the shores of Pool 15 of the Mighty Mississippi River, the 2009 Planning Associates class was treated to delicious food, interesting activities, a wealth of knowledge, and rewarding conversation by our gracious hosts.

On Sunday, prior to the beginning of the module, course owner Jodi Staebell of the [ECO-PCX](#) hosted a kayak trip and barbeque. While the weather looked bleak and the PAs were road-weary, a few of them braved the elements and were rewarded when the weather cleared for what turned out to be an amazing paddle on a Mississippi River backwater.



Four of the PAs with course owner Jodi Staebell on Pool 14. Photo by fellow kayak enthusiast Chuck Theiling (MVR)

The remaining PAs, as well as instructors Camie Knollenberg ([MVR](#)) and Greg Steele ([NAO](#)), joined up later that day for the barbeque and took the opportunity to get better acquainted with each other.

Each day, class began with a bevy of snacks provided by our hosts followed by food for thought. Our key instructors - Jodi, Camie, Greg, and Craig Fischenich ([ERDC](#)) – stayed with us throughout the week dispelling jewels from their wealth of knowledge on the subject matter.

Numerous other speakers also took time to present to the class including the previous ER course owner Brad Thompson ([NWO](#)), Susan Smith (MVD), and Leigh Skaggs ([IWR](#)) who presented on the latest version of [IWR Planning Suite](#) which is used to conduct Cost Effectiveness/ Incremental Cost Analysis on ER projects.

One highlight of the week came in the form of a panel discussion on large-scale ER programs which featured Dave Tipple ([Everglades](#)), Ken Barr ([Upper Mississippi River](#)), Mike George ([Missouri River Recovery](#)), and Troy Constance ([Louisiana Coastal Area](#)) who could not make it due to weather but joined the discussion via teleconference. These major players in the Corps' ER mission discussed the unique challenges and opportunities of their individual programs.



Panel Discussion Members (left to Right): Brad Thompson (facilitator), Mike George, Dave Tipple, and Ken Barr.

A second panel discussion was held with Mark Matusiak ([HQ](#)) and Mark McKevitt ([ASA CW](#)). It was particularly useful to gain insight into their broader perspective of ER and common problems they see in planning studies.

The week was also punctuated by a field trip on the Illinois River which featured stops at [Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge](#) and [Emiquon Preserve](#). The trip, hosted by members of [The Nature](#)

[Conservancy](#) , [Illinois Natural History Survey](#), and the [US Fish and Wildlife Service](#), highlighted the importance of interagency partnerships in ER projects. It involved a host of educational activities including a boat ride, electro-shocking for fish, a hay-rack ride, and observing archaeological studies.



**Doug Blodgett (TNC) teaches the PAs about Emiquon Preserve during a hay-rack ride**

Outside of normal class hours, the PAs were treated to an icebreaker with the course instructors and an evening dinner hosted by John and Ann Kincaid, family of the late [Teresa Kincaid](#) who was instrumental in the revival of the PA Program in the early 2000s.

During the week, the PAs also took time to meet with Harry Kitch (PA Program Director) and John Furry (Acting Planning COP Deputy) via video teleconference as well as Joy Muncy (PA Program Manager) and the PA course owners, to conduct an in-progress review of the program. Plans are already in the works for the 2010 [Planning Associates program](#).



**The PAs video teleconference with Harry Kitch**

After two weeks on the road, the PAs headed back home for three weeks at their “normal” jobs. Next stop: Alaska, where the PAs will learn about Small Boat Harbor projects and Inter-Governmental Coordination.

*Tim Fleegeer is an Environmental Resources Specialist with the Omaha District of the Northwestern Division.*



## Planning Associates Class of 2009: Strategic Think Piece Practicum and Small Boat Harbor and Intergovernmental Coordination Course

Jeff Lin, ERDC Environmental Lab

*After a few weeks back home following their Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration course in June, the 2009 PA class was on the road once again, this time to Anchorage, Alaska to attend the Small Boat Harbor and Intergovernmental Coordination module of their training program.*

The PAs were greeted in Alaska by near perfect weather, near endless sunlight, and Alaska District's very own Pat Fitzgerald, the Small Boat Harbor and Intergovernmental Coordination (SBHIC) Course Owner.

However, before the start of the SBHIC course the PAs first participated in their Strategic Think Piece (STP) Practicum. The STP project is something that the PAs have been working on in smaller teams throughout the course of the year. On the first day of the practicum, the PAs received training on briefing and presentation skills in the morning, and were then given the afternoon to prepare with their small team for the first dry run of their STP presentation, which would occur the following day. The dry run was attended, via teleconference, by Harry Kitch and Bruce Carlson from HQUSACE. They provided valuable comments regarding the content and style of the presentations, which the teams will use to refine both their STP presentation and written paper. The dry run was also the first chance each team really got to see what the other teams had been working on all these months prior. The amount of hard work and thought each team had put into their presentations was very evident.

For those not familiar with the topic, Small Boat Harbor (SBH) projects are technically Corps navigation projects, with the term "small" referring to the depth of the harbor (generally  $\leq 14$  ft draft) and not the physical dimensions of the harbor. Vessels utilizing small boat harbors serve a variety of commercial, recreational, and subsistence purposes, with fishing being one of the major waterborne activities.

During the course, the class learned about policy and

authorities, economic evaluation, design considerations, and environmental issues with regards to SBH projects, as well as being presented several case studies on SBH projects in both Alaska and Hawaii.



**Julie Anderson, Alaska District Project Manager, discusses the Port of Nome project with the PAs.**

The class also heard a diverse panel discussion consisting of representatives from several stakeholder groups, ranging from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Harbormaster Association. To put what they just learned to work, the PAs also engaged in a hands on exercise where they drew up designs for a potential new boat harbor for the Port of Whittier, a Corps study currently in the feasibility phase.



**PAs mull over options for a new boat harbor at the Port of Whittier.**

The class also learned about intergovernmental coordination, particularly as it relates to the Native Alaskan tribes. There are 229 federally recognized tribes in Alaska (that number constitutes about 40%



of all the federally recognized tribes in the entire U.S.). There are many unique issues related to coordination with the Native Alaskan tribes. For instance, unlike tribes in the continental U.S. most of the tribes in Alaska do not live on or own any reservation lands.

The last two days of the class were spent in and near Homer, Alaska, so that the PAs could see “on the ground” what they had been learning about in the classroom. We started the first day in Homer with a meeting with the city manager, who gave some background on the city and discussed the economic importance and future needs of the port and harbor there, as well as some of the conflicting interests that governs the city’s planning efforts.



**Aerial view of Port of Homer**

Following that meeting, we visited the main office and some of the staff of the [Kachemak Bay Research Reserve](#) (KBRR). Kachemak Bay is one of the most productive, diverse, and intensively used estuaries in Alaska. The reserve itself is approximately 365,000 acres, making it the largest of the 25 reserves in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The Alaska District partnered with KBRR to do some pre-project environmental inventorying at the location of a proposed harbor expansion in Homer.

That afternoon we toured the Port of Homer and were able to see the variety of commercial and recreational vessels that utilized the harbor. The harbor is built into a spit and has about 900 permanent moorage stalls. There are multi-year waiting lists for permanent moorage spots in the harbor, underlying the need for an expanded facility.

Early the next morning we traveled to nearby Anchor Point to view an alternative that many recreational



**Fish being offloaded from a vessel at Port of Homer**

boaters are using instead of the local harbor – launching their boats off the beach from the back of a tractor. A company there charges about \$70 for taking the boat out to the water and bringing it back in, and in the early morning boats are lined up to utilize the service.



**Boat being launched off the back of a tractor on the beach at Anchor Point.**

Following that unique viewing experience, we hopped on planes to make the short trip over to the Native village of Port Graham (which is only accessible by water or air), in order to meet with the tribal Chief and members of the village council. After an informative lunch and discussion concerning the challenges and needs facing the community, the PA class took a short walk through the village and saw the harbor there, which was quite different from what we had seen in Homer.

The visit to Port Graham concluded our weeklong class. The trip to Alaska provided us with many one-

of-a-kind experiences and further expanded our knowledge about the different types of projects the Corps is involved in.



**PAs board a plane to Port Graham**

Next, the PAs travel to Fort Worth, Texas in order to attend the Planning Chiefs Workshop, followed two weeks later by a trip to Seattle, Washington for the



**Boat harbor at Port Graham**

ESA, Hydropower, Recreation, Water Supply, and Cultural Resources and Tribal Affairs courses.

*Jeff Lin is a Research Biologist with the ERDC Environmental Laboratory.*

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

These are but a few of the many available positions advertised on the Army's Civilian Personnel on line website, <http://cpol.army.mil> and USAJOBS website, <http://www.usajobs.gov>. Note that clicking on the vacancy announcement number redirects the reader to the job description on the [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov) website.

(1) Vacancy Announcement Number: [WTHI09631964](#)

Opening Date: August 18, 2009 Closing Date: September 11, 2009

Position: YF-02: Supervisory Community Planner (0020), Supervisory Economist (0110), Supervisory Biologist (0401), Supervisory Civil Engineer (0810), Supervisory Environmental Engineer (0819), Supervisory Hydraulic Engineer (1315)

Salary: \$66,199 - \$110,000 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District, Omaha District, PPPM, Planning Branch, Plan Formulation and Project Mgmt. Sec., DUTY LOCATION: Omaha, NE

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

(2) Vacancy Announcement Number: [SWGJ09753963JT](#)

Opening Date: September 09, 2009 Closing Date: September 11, 2009

Position: GS-11: Community Planner (0020), Economist (0110), Landscape Architect (0807), Environmental Engineer (0819)

Salary: \$61,667 - \$80,162 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Chicago District Office

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

(3) Vacancy Announcement Number: [SWGL09331530](#)

Opening Date: March 16, 2009 Closing Date: September 17, 2009

Position: YD-02/YA: Civil Engineer (0810), Biologist (0401), Economist (0110), Archaeologist (0193)

Salary: \$56,000 - \$91,801 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District, Memphis, Planning, Programs, and Project Mgmt Div, Project Management Branch, Memphis, TN

Position Status: This announcement may be used to fill permanent full-time, part-time or intermittent positions.

Indicate on your resume your availability for any of these appointments.

Number of Vacancy: Many

(4) Vacancy Announcement Number: [WTHG09749430](#)

Opening Date: September 04, 2009 Closing Date: September 18, 2009

Position: GS-12/13: General Biological Scientist (0401), General Engineer (0801), General Physical Scientist (1301), Community Planner (0020), Economist (0110), Archaeologist (0193)

Salary: \$67,613 - \$104,525 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District, Walla Walla, Planning, Programs and Project Mgmt Division, Planning Branch, Plan Formulation Section, DUTY STATION: Walla Walla, Washington

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

(5) Vacancy Announcement Number: [SWGJ09708963CO](#)

Opening Date: September 03, 2009 Closing Date: September 23, 2009

Position: GS-12/12: Civil Engineer (0810), Mechanical Engineer (0830), Electrical Engineer (0850), Environmental Engineer (0819), Chemical Engineer (0893), Biologist (0401), Physical Scientist (1301), Community Planner (0020), Economist (0110), Geographer (0150), Hydrologist (1315), General Engineer (0801), Geologist (1350)

Salary: \$69,116 - \$89,846 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer District, Buffalo, Planning, Programs, and Project Mgmt Division, Project Mgmt Team, Buffalo, NY

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1



(6) Vacancy Announcement Number: [WTGH09634445](#)

Opening Date: September 04, 2009 Closing Date: September 18, 2009

Position: GS-0028-11/12: Environmental Protection Specialist

Salary: \$56,411.00 - \$87,893.00 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District, Kansas City, Operations Division, Operations Technical Support Branch, Natural Resources Section, DUTY STATION: Kansas City, Missouri

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 01

(7) Vacancy Announcement Number: [SWHB09661391NP](#)

Opening Date: August 17, 2009 Closing Date: September 16, 2009

Position: YA-02: Economist (0110), Geographer (0150), Archaeologist (0193)

Salary: \$45,649 - \$104,524 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District-Little Rock, Program and Project Management Division; Duty Location: Little Rock, Arkansas

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: Many

(8) Vacancy Announcement Number: [SWHB09337216R](#)

Opening Date: August 21, 2009 Closing Date: September 21, 2009

Position: YD-02/YA-02: Biologist (0401), Physical Scientist (1301), Economist (0110), Landscape Architect (0807), Civil Engineer (0810), Community Planner (0020)

Salary: \$59,383 - \$110,115 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer Division, Southwestern, Programs Directorate, Program Support Division, Duty Station: Dallas, TX

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

(9) Vacancy Announcement Number: [NCFL09687651](#)

Opening Date: August 25, 2009 Closing Date: September 14, 2009

Position: YD-02/3 YA 02/03: Biologist (0401), Ecologist (0408), Forester (0460), Architect (0808), Civil Engineer (0810), Environmental Engineer (0819), Physical Scientist (1301), Geologist (1350), Community Planner (0020), Social Scientist/Political Scientist (0101), Sociologist (0184), Economist (0110), Geographer (0150)

Salary: \$49,355 - \$160,860 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Institute for Water Resources, National Capital Region- Group I, Alexandria, VA 22315-3868

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

(10) Vacancy Announcement Number: [SWGY09692152](#)

Opening Date: September 01, 2009 Closing Date: September 15, 2009

Position: Supervisory Economist, YC-0110-02

Salary: \$66,199.00 - \$129,695.00 Annual

Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer Corps of Engineers, Waterborne Commerce Statistic Center, New Orleans, LA

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

## PROSPECT TRAINING COURSE

Upcoming USACE sponsored PROSPECT training courses of interest to the members of the Planning CoP include:

### **WATER AND THE WATERSHED**

**Control Number: 164**

November 16-12, 2009

Davis, CA

This course provides participants with an understanding of the physical nature of the water of the watershed, the role of water in shaping life of the watershed, and the conceptual, technical and institutional tools available for planning and management of its water resources.

The course covers the occurrence, movement, storage, and control of water (surface and ground water hydrology); the natural development of the landscape (geomorphology); the concept of the watershed as a bioregion and ecosystem; the role of the solid mantle as a living filter and the effects of wastewater on stream and river water quality; the development of the water resources for multiple purposes; the restoration of natural features in wetlands and Corps' restoration projects; and the social, cultural and institutional elements of watershed management. Understanding the physical nature of water and its many roles in the watershed is prerequisite to effective planning and management. Conceptual tools to be discussed include adaptive management, and collaborative management with other stakeholders to resolve water conflicts. Technical tools include: accessing data and information via the Internet; methods and models available to simulate hydrologic and ecologic features; water budget analysis; Geographic Information Systems (GIS); and current communications technology for study management such as websites, e-news, e-conferencing, e-calendars. The course will discuss the many new and active local organizations with a stake in the water of the watershed and the role of the Corps in watershed initiatives and partnerships.

Prerequisites: Nominees must be assigned (a) Occupational Series: Selected 800 and 400 series, 028, 819, 184, 101, 401, and 1301, (b) Grade GS-09 and above. Nominees should be water control managers, hydrologists, hydraulic engineers, environmentalists, biologists, economists, sociologists, ecologists, or study managers.

### **PCC4 ECONOMIC ANALYSIS**

**Control Number: 270**

April 19-23, 2010

Alexandria, VA

This course is designed to provide an overview of the requirements and procedures for conducting economic analysis of Corps of Engineers water resources planning projects. Some form of economic analysis, including benefit/cost analysis, cost effectiveness analysis and/or economic impact analysis is required of all Corps projects, whether they be for flood control, navigation, dredging, water supply, environmental mitigation and restoration or other project purpose. The course is designed to help students better understand the Corps planning process and where they, as economist, fit into that planning process. The course will also provide information on how to think about and analyze new problems and situations.

This course includes discussion on (a) the economist's role in the Corps of Engineers (Who is your audience, your customer? What are your products?); (b) introduction on principles and guidelines -- how the economist's job is influenced by P&G; (c) how to think as a Corps economist in National Economic Development (NED) terms (including new technologies such as risk and uncertainty); (d) evaluation by project purpose using the NED manuals (the incorporation of R&U into evaluation by project purpose); (e) other evaluation techniques (cost effectiveness, incremental cost analysis, economic impact analysis); (f) the changing role of economic analysis: Environmental Restoration, Rehabilitation, Watershed Planning, Section 216; (g) expected problem areas and how to think about them -- emphasis will be on with/without project condition, NED vs. Regional, Economics vs. Cost Sharing; and (h) how to plan your work with emphasis on Initial Project Management Plan (IPMP).

This course is designed primarily for NEW Corps Economists and/or those personnel requiring a basic understanding of what economists do in conducting economic analysis of water resources projects, particularly project managers. Priority placement will be given to CW planners with less than 3 years of planning experience at the GS7-11 grade level. It is highly recommended that students have taken the CW Orientation Course and the Planning Principles & Procedures Course before taking this course.

To attend these courses or to receive additional information about other PROSPECT training courses, please contact the USACE Learning Center at <http://pdsc.usace.army.mil>.

## PIANC Technical Seminar Announcement



### **Navigating the Environment - Managing Risks and Sustaining Benefits 28 October 2009 New Orleans, Louisiana**

PIANC USA and the International Environmental Commission (EnviCom) are organizing a one-day technical seminar on the subject of navigation and the environment. Topics included on the agenda include climate change and navigation, sea level rise, dredging management practices, sediment management, and coastal flood risk management.

EnviCom's mission relates to both broad and specific issues related to sustainability, environmental risks, and navigation. It also develops and provides environmental guidance for sustainable waterborne transport, ports and waterways. This seminar will also offer the chance to network with colleagues and visit with industry exhibitors. The evening reception will be held at the Plimsoll Club, with its exclusive location atop the World Trade Center and a spectacular panoramic view of the Crescent City and Mississippi River.

For additional information about the technical seminar please see the attached announcement, including technical agenda: <http://www.pianc.iwr.usace.army.mil/docs/EnviComNewOrleansmeetingOctAUG1Announcement.pdf>

To register for the seminar, please use the following link: <<http://www.pianc.iwr.usace.army.mil/docs/RegistrationFormOct2009.pdf>>

Attendees of the seminar will earn Professional Development Hours (PDHs).

\*EnviCom TG 3 – 2008 Report entitled, “*Climate Change and Navigation - Waterborne transport, ports and waterways: A review of climate change drivers, impacts, responses and mitigation,*” is available for free download at: <http://www.pianc.org/edits/article.php?id=4000501>.

*PIANC USA was organized in 1902 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers serving as the Secretariat located at the Institute for Water Resources in Alexandria, VA. Its goal is to advance the sustainable development of shallow and deep-draft navigation issues including dredging and dredged material disposal, navigation and port infrastructure, recreational navigation and related environmental matters. PIANC USA is chaired by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works); the President is the Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*



## Conference Announcement

### FOURTH PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE

**“Projects to Systems: Restoring and Protecting our Nation’s Natural Capital”  
26-29 October, 2009, Stevenson, Washington**

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and The Nature Conservancy (Conservancy) are pleased to announce the Fourth Partnership Conference, to be held at the beautiful Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Washington, located in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

This will be an excellent opportunity to reinforce and expand the partnership between the Corps and the Conservancy and many of our other vital partners. Reflecting the theme of this year’s conference, sessions will emphasize the integration of individual partnership projects into comprehensive ecosystem-, regional-, and national-scale efforts. In addition to speaker presentations and break-out discussions, there will be ample opportunities to network, collaborate and share ideas, and a poster session will showcase partnership projects and other efforts.

The conference will also include a tour of the Bonneville Dam Historic District, where the Corps and the Conservancy will sign a Regional Memorandum of Understanding between the Northwestern Division of the Corps and seven Conservancy state chapters.

Who should attend: Corps leadership and staff, including Project Managers, Planners, Environmental staff, H&H staff and Operations staff; and Conservancy leadership, Conservation Directors and Government Relations staff.

Additional information on agenda topics, registration, hotel reservations, and activities available within the spectacular Colombia River Gorge will be available in the coming weeks.

Please feel free to contact Lisa Morales, Program Manager – Army Corps at [Lisa.T.Morales@hq02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Lisa.T.Morales@hq02.usace.army.mil) or Terry Sullivan, Senior Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy at [terry\\_sullivan@tnc.org](mailto:terry_sullivan@tnc.org) if you have any questions.

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### **Dredged Material Assessment and Management Seminar 15-17 September 2009, Detroit, MI**

The Dredging Operations Technical Support (DOTS) and the Dredging Operations and Environmental Research (DOER) Programs will be hosting a Dredged Material Assessment and Management Seminar September 15-17, 2009 in Detroit, MI. Like previous seminars, this three day meeting will offer presentations and demonstrations from leading experts from both within and outside of the Corps. Based on the overwhelming positive comments received from last year’s meeting, we have decided to continue with the format developed for the 2008 Seminar. See the following link for the presentations made at the 2008 seminar: <<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/training.cfm?Topic=Workshop&List=08apr-doer>>

The seminar program includes updated information on the science and engineering of dredged material assessment and management. The Dredging Seminar portion of the agenda has been streamlined to fit within 1.5 days and will cover “the basics” of dredged material assessment and management. Following this portion of the agenda, one half day will be divided between a session highlighting DOER research and one highlighting dredging issues in the Great Lakes region. The third and final day of the Seminar will focus on the assessment and management of risks from dredged material re-suspension.

Information on registration, accommodations and other logistical matters will be posted at <<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/dots/training/dmams.cfm>> For additional information please contact Ms. Sandra Brasfield at [Sandra.M.Brasfield@usace.army.mil](mailto:Sandra.M.Brasfield@usace.army.mil).

## CONFERENCES

The following is a list of conferences, workshops, and symposia that may be of interest to members of the Planning Community of Practice, as well as other practitioners in field of water resources. Those conferences, workshops and symposia in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been involved in the organization, sponsorship, or where members of the Corps have been identified as speakers or presenters, are identified in *italics*.

Northeast Shore and Beach Preservation Association “Northeast Beaches Conference”

September 21-23, 2009

Woods Hole, MA

Additional information: <http://www.ieca-nechapter.org/coastal2009.html>

San Francisco Estuary Partnership “Our Actions, Our Estuary: 9th Biennial State of the San Francisco Bay Estuary Conference”

September 29—October 1, 2009

Oakland, CA

Additional information: [http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/soe/soe\\_index.html](http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/soe/soe_index.html)

American Shore and Beach Preservation Association “National Coastal Conference: Integrating Science and Policy”

October 14—16, 2009

St. Petersburg, FL

Additional information: [http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conf\\_fall\\_09.htm](http://www.asbpa.org/conferences/conf_fall_09.htm)

2009 Virginia Water Research Conference “Water Resources in Changing Climates”

October 15-16, 2009

Richmond, VA

Additional information: <http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu/2009conference.html>

2009 National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies

October 20-23, 2009

Colorado Springs, CO

Additional information: <http://www.nafsma.org/meetings-upcoming.php>

2009 American Water Resources Association Annual Water Resources Conference

November 9-12, 2009

Seattle, WA

Additional information: <http://www.awra.org/meetings/Seattle2009/>

International Erosion Control Association

February 16-20, 2010

Dallas, TX

Additional information: <http://www.ieca.org/conference/annual/ec.asp>

2010 American Water Resources Association Spring Specialty Conference “Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Water Resources IV

March 29-31, 2010

Orlando, FL

Additional information: <http://www.awra.org/meetings/Florida2010/>

### Ports 2010

April 25-28, 2010

Jacksonville, FL

Additional information: <http://content.asce.org/conferences/ports2010/>

2010 Watershed Management Conference “Innovations in Watershed Management Under Land Use and Climate Change”

August 23-27, 2010

Madison, WI

Additional information: <http://content.asce.org/conferences/watershedmanagement2010/index.html>

## PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of recently published reports, studies, or articles prepared by the Corps of Engineers, other Federal agencies, or other research organizations:

***“Building a Stronger Corps—A Snapshot of How the Corps is Applying Lessons Learned From Katrina”***, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 30 April 2009, Available at:

[http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/docs/USACE\\_PK\\_Update\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/docs/USACE_PK_Update_Report_Final.pdf)

***“Sustainable Water Systems: Step One—Redefining the Nation’s Infrastructure Challenge”***, The Aspen Institute Energy and Environment Program, Available at:

<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/content/docs/pubs/WaterInfrastructure.pdf>

***“Disaster Recovery: Experiences from Past Disasters Offer Insights for Effective Collaboration after Catastrophic Events”***, Government Accountability Office, GAO Report -09-811, Available at:

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-811>

***“Elevated East Coast Sea Level Anomaly: June—July 2009”***, NOAA Technical Report NOS CO-OPS 051, August 2009, Available at:

[http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/EastCoastSeaLevelAnomaly\\_2009.pdf](http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/EastCoastSeaLevelAnomaly_2009.pdf)

***A Greener Shale of Blue? State of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary 2008”***, San Francisco Estuary Project and CALFED, Available at: <http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/pdfs/soe/SOE-2008.pdf>

***“Capabilities-Based Approach to Measuring the Societal Impacts of Natural and Man-Made Hazards in Risk Analysis”*** by Paolo Gardoni and Colleen Murphy, *Natural Hazards Review*, Volume 10, Number 2, May 2009.

***“Risk Analysis of a Protected Hurricane-Prone Region. I: Model Development”*** by Bibal M. Ayyub, Jerry Foster and William L. McGill, *Natural Hazard Review*, Volume 10, Number 2, May 2009.

***“Risk Analysis of a Protected Hurricane-Prone Region. II: Computations and Illustrations”*** by Bibal M. Ayyub, Jerry Foster, William L. McGill and Harvey W. Jones, *Natural Hazard Review*, Volume 10, Number 2, May 2009.

***“Fast Forward: Key Issues in Modernizing the U.S. Freight Transportation System for Future Economic Growth”*** by Richard Hillestad, Ben D. Van Roo, and Keenan D. Yoho, RAND Supply Chain Policy Center, Available at: <http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG883/>

***“State Transportation Statistics 2008”***, U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, August 2009, Available at:

[http://www.bts.gov/publications/state\\_transportation\\_statistics/state\\_transportation\\_statistics\\_2008/index.html](http://www.bts.gov/publications/state_transportation_statistics/state_transportation_statistics_2008/index.html)

***“America’s Container Ports: Freight Hubs That Connect Our Nation to Global Markets”***, U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, June 2009, Available at: [http://www.bts.gov/publications/americas\\_container\\_ports/2009/](http://www.bts.gov/publications/americas_container_ports/2009/)

***“Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making”***, by Thomas Dietz and Paul Stern, Editors, Panel on Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making, National Research Council, 2008. Available at: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12434](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12434)



## HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO *PLANNING AHEAD*

*Planning Ahead* is designed to foster communication amongst the members of the Planning community of practice within the Corps, with those other members of the Corps family with which planners interact on a daily basis, and with members of the general public outside of the Corps. It is our goal that future editions of the newsletter will include information and perspectives of those members of the planning community on the front lines of the Corps' planning efforts, the District and Division offices. We hope that this newsletter becomes a forum to share your experiences to help the entire planning community learn from one another. We welcome your thoughts, comments, questions, suggestions, success stories, and lessons learned, so that we can share them with the broader community. Submissions should be moderate in length (4-5 paragraphs), except in cases where the article is compelling and circumstances warrant a lengthier treatment of the subject. The article should be prepared as a MS Word document. Pictures accompanying submitted articles are welcome. Pictures must be in JPEG format. Please send articles to Mr. Kenneth E. Lichtman, at [Kenneth.e.lichtman@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kenneth.e.lichtman@usace.army.mil)

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue of *Planning Ahead* is  
**Wednesday, October 7, 2009**

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